

St. Germans Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1971

P. J. FOX, M. B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.



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ST. GERMANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The population of No. 7 Health Area as estimated on the 30th June, 1971 was 55,190 - an increase of 1,790 over the corresponding date in 1970. Liskeard Rural District showed the largest increase of 800, and was closely followed by the Borough of Saltash where the increase was 660. In the Borough of Liskeard a sizeable increase of 350 was estimated, and there were much smaller increases at Torpoint and Looe. In the St Germans Rural District there was a fall of 120 in population.

The number of live births registered during 1971 rose sharply to 855 an increase of 86 over the previous year. This produced a corrected birth rate of 19.1 per 1,000 of population - some 3.1 per 1,000 above the corresponding figure for England and Wales. Of these 855 live births 64 were illegitimate births and represented 7.5% of all live births. This was one half per cent below the national figure. With an undoubted increase in sexual promiscuity, one might reasonably apprehend an increase in births of children outside wedlock. On the other hand the gradual increase and spread of knowledge about contraception, and the readier availability of abortion may more than offset the effects of sexual permissiveness and we could well see some reduction in the number of illegitimate births. The rates for still-births and for infant mortality were below those for the country as a whole. Unfortunately one 28 year old mother died during 1971 from a haemorrhage complicating childbirth.

There were 779 deaths, an increase of 11 over the total for the previous year. This yielded a corrected rate per 1,000 of population of 11.8 which was only fractionally higher than the rate for England and Wales. As is usual heart disease was responsible for the highest number of deaths, and caused 39% of all deaths. Cancer in all its forms caused 20% of all deaths, and the most lethal single form of cancer was that affecting the lung which caused 35 deaths. Of the 779 persons who died during 1971, some 373 or 49% of the total had reached or exceeded the age of 75 years at the time of death.

The incidence of notifiable disease was again quite light during the year. In all 109 cases were notified, and apart from 4 cases of infective jaundice which can cause permanent damage to the liver, and very occasionally has a fatal outcome, none of the more serious types of notifiable disease occurred. The one case of malaria which was notified involved a young man from Nigeria, who was undergoing training in a Naval Establishment. Of the 109 cases notified, 44 were measles, 35 whooping cough and there were 18 cases of scarlet fever.

During the year 14 new cases of tuberculosis were notified a sizeable increase over the admittedly low total of 8 new cases in 1970. Of the new cases 10 were respiratory infections, and in 4 other parts of the body were involved. In 8 of the cases males were affected and 9 out of the total of 14 infections were aged 45 years or more at the time of infection. In two instances death was attributed to tuberculosis, the persons involved being a female aged 65 years, and a male aged 71 years.

In carrying out the regular annual campaign for the tuberculin testing and B.C.G. vaccination of 12 year old schoolchildren a 12 year old girl was found to have a strongly positive tuberculin reaction. Further investigation of this child and the family contacts disclosed that she and her mother were suffering from active tuberculosis, and from the condition of the mothers lungs it appeared that her infection had been present for some time and had probably been passed from her to her daughter. Some six months later a third member of the family - a boy aged 7 was found to have X-ray evidence of early tuberculosis. During 1970 of 558 schoolchildren who had their tuberculin test read, some 527 were found to need B.C.G. vaccination and were given it.

In closing this general preface I would again offer to Members and Officers of the six County District Councils I serve my sincere thanks for the assistance and understanding I have received from them during the past year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant,

P.J.FOX.

Medical Officer of Health.

RURAL DISTRICT OF ST. GERMANS

PUBLIC HEALTH AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Councillor G. Finch
Councillor C.J. Gillbard

Chairman
Vice Chairman

The Whole Council

HOUSING COMMITTEE

Councillor R.H.H. Eddey
Councillor M.E. Higman

Chairman
Vice Chairman

The Whole Council

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

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Public Health Inspector.

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Public Health Inspector.

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Saltash. PL12 4DE

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RURAL DISTRICT OF ST. GERMANS

Area of Rural District	48,533 acres.
Population	15,120
Number of Inhabited Houses	6,211
Rateable Value at 1.4.71	383,398
Product of Penny Rate 1971/72	£3,783

VITAL STATISTICS FOR
1971.

Live Births	<u>Male</u> 99	<u>Female</u> 108	<u>Total</u> 207
	<u>St. Germans R.D.</u>	<u>Health Area No. 7</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Birth rate per 1,000 of population	17.1	19.1	16.0
Still Births	<u>Male</u> -	<u>Female</u> 1	<u>Total</u> 1
	<u>St. Germans R.D.</u>	<u>Health Area No. 7</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births	5.0	8.1	12.0
Deaths	<u>Male</u> 125	<u>Female</u> 98	<u>Total</u> 223
	<u>St. Germans R.D.</u>	<u>Health Area No. 7</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Death rate per 1,000 of population	12.1	11.8	11.6
Death of infants under one year of age	<u>Male</u> -	<u>Female</u> 2	<u>Total</u> 2
	<u>St. Germans R.D.</u>	<u>Health Area No. 7</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	10.0	12.9	18.0
<u>Principal Causes of Death at All Ages</u>			
Heart Disease	86		
Cancer (all sites)	44		
Stroke	31		
Respiratory Disease	22		
Circulatory Disease	7		
Accidents	7		

The excess of deaths over births noted in 1970 was repeated in 1971. Of the 207 live births, 17 were illegitimate - a percentage of 8.2 of all live births. Of the defined forms of cancer those affecting the lung and affecting the intestines were most prevalent as causes of death. Of those who died during the year 48% had reached or exceeded the age of 75 years at the time of death.

Notifiable Disease (other than tuberculosis)

The prevalence of this group of diseases was relatively light during 1971. In all 45 cases were notified. The most prevalent disease was whooping cough of which there were 22 cases. Scarlet fever caused 15 notifications and measles 8 cases. None of the more serious forms of notifiable disease occurred.

Tuberculosis

Two new cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis in males aged 46 years and 55 years were notified in the usual way. A third non-respiratory infection came to light in a death certificate of a 65 year old woman where it was considered to be the cause of her death.

At the end of the year there were 16 known cases of respiratory tuberculosis and 5 known cases of other forms of tuberculosis resident in the Rural District.

National Assistance Act, 1948

In March 1971 my attention was drawn to the unsatisfactory conditions under which an 80 year old woman was living in a large village. From medical reports received it also appeared that she was suffering from grave chronic disease for which she received palliative treatment in hospital during February 1971.

As she was adamant in her refusal to enter hospital for further investigation and care, an Order under Section 47 of this Act was sought and obtained from the Magistrates Court at Callington on the 8th April, 1971. The old person was taken to the Plymouth General Hospital from which she was transferred at a later date to an Old Persons Home at Saltash. Within a few days she left the Old Persons Home and returned to her own home. Although she was now in breach of the Order made by the Justices, the practical difficulties of returning her to, and continuing to detain her in an Old Persons Home were such that no further action was taken, and endeavours were directed towards trying to support her in her own home.

Water Supply

An adequate supply of wholesome water was provided by the East Cornwall Water Board during the year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Progress during 1971 was not as rapid in this field as had been hoped and delays of one sort and another held up progress at Gunnislake, St. Germans and Polbathic. On the credit side the badly needed scheme at Pillaton was completed and that at St. Dominick was making progress.

Food.

Standards of food hygiene in food shops and catering establishments were reasonably good during 1971.

Food Poisoning

No case of food poisoning was notified in the Rural District during the year.

Factories Act, 1961

No difficulties in the operation of this Act were experienced during 1971.

Report of Chief Public Health Inspector.

This report by Mr. W.E. Grylls follows. I wish to place on record my gratitude to Mr. Grylls, Mr. Williams and Mr. Pollett for the help and co-operation I have had from them during the year.

ST. GERMANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

SURVEYOR & CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

YEAR 1971

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The scheme of sewerage for the village of Pillaton was completed early in the year and this has meant that the building development can now proceed unhindered up to the limit agreed in the Village Plan prepared by the County Planning Authority after close consultation with the Council.

Being a mechanically operated plant it has produced certain running-in problems and to date the effluent standards have been somewhat disappointing, and it would appear that modifications will be necessary, particularly in regard to the provision of a mechanically operated scraper on the top of the settling tank. The manufacturers have been contacted on this matter and it is hoped to be able to give a more favourable report on the operation of the plant during the coming year.

The scheme at St. Dominic has at last commenced, the contract having been awarded to Messrs. Northcott and Company, although it will not be completed before the early months of 1973, by which time it will be possible to abolish the Council's existing unsatisfactory outfalls, as well as most of the septic tanks serving properties in this scattered parish.

As in the case of Pillaton when the scheme has finally been installed it will make way for a considerable amount of residential development for which planning applications are already being received.

Unfortunately the negotiations in respect of Gunnislake have proved to be complicated with resultant delays and it has not been possible to invite tenders as was thought would be the case when last year's report was prepared, and it now appears that nothing of a practical nature will commence until 1973.

Although in the case of St. Germans and Polbathic negotiations appeared to be proceeding smoothly there has been delay caused by the District Valuer and the owner's agent being unable to agree a price for the disposal works site, with the result that the scheme was not submitted to the Ministry.

The sewerage scheme at Hatt was well in hand at the year's end, and the erection of 158 houses by Sunnybanks Estates was able to proceed unhindered, as it is obvious that the disposal works will be in operation in the early spring of 1972, well in advance of the majority of the houses being completed.

The scheme for improving the existing outfall works at Callington will be possibly abandoned, as consideration is now being given to the construction of a much larger works near Woodcocks Well in the Lynher Valley, in conjunction with Liskeard R.D.C., to also cater for Pensilva, St. Ive and a new abattoir to be built by F.M.C.

The estimated cost of the new proposals will it is anticipated be in excess of £600,000.

Due to various other commitments and the delay in the decision over the proposed Power Station little progress has been made at Millbrook, nor has anything been done at Hessenford, and Cargreen still awaits the preparation of a Village Map by the Planning Authority to enable the Council to assess what the maximum development to be permitted is likely to be for design purposes.

As to existing plants which are now in operation, their maintenance and running has proceeded smoothly and this is greatly aided by the conscientious direct labour staff who service these works.

As mentioned in previous years additional staff will be required to deal with the increasing number of works being provided and the position is under constant surveillance so that the obligation to the River Authority to produce the correct effluent standards is complied within every respect as far as is humanly practical.

Generally speaking it can be said that over the past five years a concentrated effort has been made to deal with the sewage disposal problem in the district and with the work now in hand and programmed for the next two or three years it is obvious that it will not be long before the whole district is adequately and efficiently sewered and at the same time equipped with satisfactory disposal works throughout.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

During the year all the coin boxes on convenience cubicles have been removed and there has been a marked decrease in vandalism. Problems still arise with such things as broken glass and damaged pipe work but generally speaking the fact that anyone visiting these structures has free access to every part seems to satisfy their curiosity whereas a lock on the door was something that seemed to encourage certain types to break in.

The Callington convenience has now been completed, as also has the one at the Eliot Hall, St. Germans.

Both have proved to be serving a very useful purpose, particularly now with the increase of visitors, and in the case of Callington the large car park immediately adjoining which is now extensively used due to the prohibition of street parking in most of the town.

Unfortunately no progress was made at Calstock with the acquisition of a site for a new convenience so this meant that the old one erected by the Calstock Rural District Council prior to 1934 still had to continue in use.

Once again the Mobile convenience was stationed at Tregantle and although it serves a very useful purpose no suggestion has been made that an additional one should be provided, although it was at one time suggested that the County Highways Department might consider stationing a similar structure on the trunk road lay-by at Penquite to the west of Trerulefoot.

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION

Once again it is necessary to report that more and more refuse is being collected, although up to the present time it has been possible to contain it in the capacity of the present fleet of three lorries.

As was envisaged the 35 cubic yard Pakamatic vehicle was in an advanced state of deterioration at the year's end by which time the Council had already ordered a new Revopak from Messrs. Shelvoke and Drewry with a view to it being delivered in time for the 1972 summer season.

The estimated life of the other two vehicles is at least another five years, and with the increased capacity and quicker loading arrangements on the Revopak the time saved will enable more material to be collected in less time by the same labour force.

The control of the Council's tips has received careful attention and great progress has been made at Millbrook where sufficient land has now been reclaimed for the Playing Fields Committee to construct a football pitch.

At St. Germans and Callington tipping still continues, although in both instances sufficient land has not yet been reclaimed to facilitate development in the form of open space.

At the moment Callington is taking all the refuse from the northern part of the district and next year the Council will have to give serious consideration to obtaining another site. This no doubt will present a problem as everyone is interested in disposing of their waste material but no one wants it near their property. The final solution might be the erection of a large incinerator embracing a larger area but until such time as this comes about there is no doubt that controlled tipping is the only economical method, and despite public objection if it is properly undertaken there is really no need for complaint, and I think this can be borne out by our experience at Millbrook where that now people can see what is happening as the land is reclaimed they are only too willing to agree to the use of the site for refuse disposal continuing.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The detailed record of slaughtering at the Abattoirs within the Council's district in the year is set out hereunder:-

	CATTLE			Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves		
Number killed	757	78	9	2,203	7
Number inspected	757	78	9	2,203	7
All diseases except cysticercosis and tuberculosis.					
(a) Whole carcase condemned.	3	3	-	4	1
(b) Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.	511	14	-	513	-

	CATTLE			Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves		
Tuberculosis only					
(a) Whole carcass condemned	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned.	1	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis only					
(a) Whole carcass condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned.	2	-	-	-	-
Gross weight of meat condemned	5,233lbs.	1,610lbs.	0lbs.	1,363lbs	121lbs.

The steady rise in beef throughput recorded over the past few years was not maintained in 1971, and there has been in fact a drop of nearly 27% below last year's figure. This was, however, offset to some degree by a reversal of the trend away from sheep and lambs, the throughput of each rose over 12½% during the same period. As for pigs since the cessation of this branch of slaughtering at Kelly Bray, noted in my report last year, throughput at a little over 3% of the 1970 figure has to all intents and purposes virtually come to an end.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAYS PREMISES ACT, 1963
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 AND REGULATIONS.

Inspections in the year under review have shown no irregularities in either shops or offices to which the Act of 1963 applies, and as regards food premises, on the whole they were generally up to the standard required.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

Routine sampling of private water supplies were made during the year as a normal safeguard for the domestic users of untreated water sources and inspections of the various caravan sites were carried out. The year proved quite uneventful and minor complaints were dealt with by the Council's officers.

HOUSING

The number of new dwellings provided during the year has shown a slight increase, and fourteen Council houses have been completed, and there are a further thirteen under construction.

Six new dwellings were provided at Pengelly, Wilcove; four at Well Street, Callington; and a further four at West Street, Millbrook. There were nine properties at Cawsand, and four more at Millbrook under construction.

The private enterprise contribution of new dwellings increased almost 12% to a total of one hundred and fifteen new dwellings completed, with a further one hundred and nine under construction.

There is still a steady demand in the private field despite the rising costs, and it is remarkable to note how quickly new development follows the sewerage of the more rural areas. Several villages have almost doubled in size and the trend is requiring a careful planning appraisal of the situation.

Improvement of dwellings with grant aid continued briskly at the start of the year, but there was a distinct falling off in the summer in anticipation of the increased aid likely to be available in the district in line with Government Policy. Later, however, with the introduction of higher grants, applications increased very considerably. By the end of the year twenty-six improvement grants had been approved to a total value of £22,954 of which seven grants valued at £7,818 were for works of conversion.

Fifteen improvement grants totalling £10,029 were paid, including four grants for conversion totalling £2,286.

Twenty-five standard grants valued at £6,533 were approved during the year, and nineteen standard grants were paid totalling £3,898. These include three higher limit grants where bathroom additions were constructed.

Action against sub-standard housing continued unabated during the year and steady progress can be reported. Notices were served in respect of fourteen properties; twelve properties were demolished, six demolition orders made, and undertakings accepted in respect of nine other properties. Three Closing Orders were effected and thirteen properties were made fit as a result of action taken under the Housing Acts.

It can be seen, therefore, that a steady and progressive improvement is being maintained to raise the general housing standard, both by statutory action under the Housing Acts and with financial aid for the improvement of older properties.

Mortgage advances totalling £86,660 have also been given by the Council in respect of forty-one properties, and a further seven Council houses have been sold to the tenants.

APPENDIX 1

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH - ALL AGES - 1971

DISEASE	ST. GERMANS R.D.	LISKEARD R.D.	SALTASH M.B.	TORPOINT U.D.	LISKEARD M.B.	LOOE U.D.	HEALTH AREA NO. 7.
Heart disease	86	83	42	20	38	33	302
Cancer(all sites)	44	37	30	15	14	16	156
Stroke	31	26	14	4	29	7	111
Respiratory disease	22	18	15	3	5	10	73
Circulatory disease	7	4	8	8	3	3	33
Accidents	7	3	2	4	2	2	20
Digestive disease	5	3	2	-	1	-	11
Genito-urinary disease	3	2	3	-	1	1	10

APPENDIX 2

TYPES OF HEART DISEASE AND CANCER CAUSING DEATH - 1971

TYPE OF DISEASE	St. GERMANS R.D.	LISKEARD R.D.	SALTASH M.B.	TORPOINT U.D.	LISKEARD M.B.	LOOE U.E.	HEALTH AREA No. 7.
Ischaemic heart disease	64	65	37	15	35	24	240
Hypertensive disease	6	9	1	-	1	1	18
Rheumatic heart disease	-	2	1	1	1	1	6
Other heart disease	16	7	3	4	1	7	38
Cancer of Lung / Bronchus	7	9	10	4	3	2	35
Cancer of Intestine	6	7	6	1	1	3	24
Cancer of stomach	3	3	4	3	1	3	17
Cancer of breast	4	4	2	-	1	1	12
Cancer of uterus	3	1	-	1	2	-	7
Leukaemia	3	-	-	1	-	2	6
Other cancers	18	13	8	5	6	5	55

APPENDIX 3

DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS - 1971

DISTRICT	0 - 4 YEARS	5 - 14 YEARS	15 - 44 YEARS	45 - 64 YEARS	65 - 74 YEARS	75 YEARS AND OVER	ALL AGES
ST.GERMANS R.D.	3	3	7	43	60	107	223
LISKEARD.R.D.	5	3	8	39	53	88	196
SALTASH M.B.	4	-	3	27	41	54	129
TORPOINT U.D.	-	-	6	14	18	18	56
LISKEARD M.B.	1	-	1	11	26	61	100
LOOE U.D.	-	-	3	13	14	45	75
HEALTH AREA NO. 7.	13	6	28	147	212	373	779

APPENDIX 4TUBERCULOSISNEW CASES IN HEALTH AREA No. 7 - 1971

<u>AGE GROUPS</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
0 - 4 YEARS	-	-	-
5 - 14 YEARS	1	2	3
15 - 24 YEARS	-	-	-
25 - 44 YEARS	1	1	2
45 - 64 YEARS	5	-	5
65 YEARS AND OVER	1	3	4
	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>14</u>

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
New Case rate per 1,000 of population	0.145	0.109	0.254

CASE RATES AND MORTALITY RATES IN COUNTY DISTRICTS IN HEALTH AREA NO. 7 - 1971

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>	<u>ALL KNOWN CASES</u>	<u>DEATHS</u>
ST. GERMANS R.D.	0.19	1.39	0.07
LISKEARD R.D.	0.07	1.65	-
SALTASH M.B.	0.10	2.11	0.10
TORPOINT U.D.	0.32	1.42	-
LISKEARD M.B.	0.95	4.19	-
LOOE U.D.	0.49	2.72	-
HEALTH AREA NO. 7	0.25	1.96	0.04
CORNWALL COUNTY	0.16	2.20	0.04

APPENDIX 5

CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS
DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS - 1971

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
25 - 34 years	1	-	1
45 - 54 years	1	2	3
55 - 64 years	7	1	8
65 - 74 years	12	2	14
75 and over	8	1	9
	<u>29</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>35</u>

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 of POPULATION - 1971

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
HEALTH AREA NO. 7	0.525	0.109	0.634
CORNWALL COUNTY	0.395	0.114	0.509
ENGLAND AND WALES	0.516	0.114	0.630

FACTORIES ACT 1961

This table is enclosed by a request of the Secretary of State for Employment to indicate to Medical Officers of Health the prescribed particulars which are required by Section 153(1) of the Factories Act, 1961 to be furnished in their Annual Reports with respect to matters under Parts I and VIII of that Act which are administered by the District Council. This table, which is not intended to supersede the fuller statement which is desirable in the text of the Report, should be attached as an annex to the Report.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1971 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF ST. GERMAN'S

IN THE COUNTY OF CORNWALL

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	63	27	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	64	27	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found
 (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more 'cases')

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	-	1	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	-	1	-
Total	2	2	NIL	2	NIL

PART VIII OF THE ACT
 OUTWORK

(SECTIONS 133 and 134)

No outworkers are employed in the St. Germans Rural District.

